



**IN THE
UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK
OFFICE**

<i>Application Number</i>	09/993,501
<i>Filing Date</i>	27 November 2001
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Norman G. ANDERSON
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1634
<i>Examiner Name</i>	Frank Wei Min Lu
<i>Attorney Docket No.</i>	2316-149

Title of the Invention: **DETECTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF
MICROORGANISMS**

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

FEB 19 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph [0001] of the specification of record with the following replacement paragraph. No new matter has been added.

[0001] The present application is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/666,836 filed 21 September 2000, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/571,274, filed 16 May 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,340,570, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/265,541, filed 9 March 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,254,834, each incorporated herein by reference. The present application is further related to U.S.